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**REP. THURSTON RESPONDS TO JUDICIAL RESTRUCTURING PLAN**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Rep. Perry E. Thurston, Jr. (D-Plantation) issued the following statement today in response to an announcement by House Speaker Dean Cannon concerning proposed legislation to restructure the Florida judiciary:

“While I applaud Speaker Cannon for attempting to improve his proposal to revamp the Florida courts, I view the proposed amendments as a veiled attack on the third branch of government, the judiciary,” said Representative Thurston. “While I believe it is important that the judiciary receive a guaranteed specific level of funding of all general revenue the state collects, I believe it should be a share much greater than the 2.25 percent that Speaker Cannon has proposed.

“Additionally, I have ongoing and serious concerns about legislative proposals to interfere with the court’s rulemaking authority, and I respectfully disagree with Speaker Cannon’s suggestion that there needs to be additional members of the state Supreme Court. Furthermore, the speaker’s proposal concerning access to investigative records on complaints against judges is, in my view, an unnecessary step that could lead to judicial impeachments occurring before all the facts are gathered and understood in cases involving alleged judicial impropriety.”

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